

**Shrimp Committee Report
April 05, 2017
Dale Diaz, Chair**

Biological Review of the Texas Closure

Dr. Hart reviewed the results from the Texas closure. The goal of the closure is to increase the size of brown shrimp for harvest. Most shrimp harvested were 31-40 count shrimp or larger. Large white shrimp had increased but are slightly below the long term average. There was discussion on the economics of the closure and the Shrimp AP motions regarding extending the closure. The Committee requested that staff send a letter to the SEFSC requesting an analysis that would address the motions made by the Shrimp AP for an economic analysis of the Texas closure and an analysis on extending the closure to adjacent areas.

The Committee recommends and I so move: **Recommend that the Texas closure out to 200 miles run concurrent with the date the State of Texas recommends for the 2017 shrimp season.**

Motion carried with no opposition.

Review of the Updated Stock Assessments

Dr. Hart provided the committee with the updated stock assessments for pink, brown, and white shrimp. All stocks are healthy and are not overfished nor undergoing overfishing. There was some discussion on the potential for terminal year bias within the assessment. The SSC felt that these assessments were the best scientific information available.

Summary of the Shrimp Advisory Panel Meeting

Staff reviewed the Shrimp Advisory Panel Summary. The AP discussed the Texas closure, the stock assessments, the new proposed TED rule, and Shrimp Amendment 17B. The AP concurred with the preferred alternatives that were selected in Shrimp 17B by the Council at its January 2017 meeting. The AP requested that for all future shrimp amendments, the Council include locations in Belle Chasse and Abbeville, LA. Mr. Perret, the Shrimp AP chair, also provide information to the Committee regarding the AP meeting.

Final Action on Shrimp Amendment 17B

Staff reviewed the public comments that were received. Staff then presented the final draft of Shrimp Amendment 17B and reviewed the changes in the document. The Committee reviewed the preferred alternatives selected at the January 2017 Council meeting.

The Committee recommends and I so move: **To recommend the Council approve Shrimp Amendment 17B and that it be forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce for review and implementation, and deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate, giving staff editorial license to make the necessary changes in the document. The Council Chair is given the authority to deem any changes to the codified text as necessary and appropriate.**

Motion carried with no opposition.

This concludes my report.